IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2-4, 10, 11, 18, 21, 22, 24-27, 31 and 34 to read as follows:

2. The fabric of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the individual fibers or filaments within the first plurality of discrete unbonded areas extend into and are bonded within the continuous bonded areas.

3. The fabric of claim 2, wherein at least a portion of the individual fibers or filaments within the second plurality of discrete unbonded extend into and are bonded within the continuous bonded areas.

4. The fabric of claim 3, wherein the continuous bonded areas comprise from about 25 percent to about 50 percent of the nonwoven web.

10. The fabric of claim 1, wherein the first characteristic is a first opacity level and the second characteristic is a second opacity level, the second opacity level being higher than the first opacity level.

11. The fabric of claim 1, wherein the first characteristic is a first tensile strength and the second characteristic is a second tensile strength, the second tensile strength being greater than the first tensile strength.

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18. The fabric of claim 1, wherein the first characteristic is a first fluid flow the second characteristic is a second fluid flow.

21. A pattern-unbonded non-woven web, comprising:

a first region including a first pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a first plurality of discrete unbonded areas;

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at least one second region including a second pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a second plurality of discrete unbonded areas, the second pattern being different from the first pattern.

22. The web of claim 21, wherein the first region is adapted for fastening engagement with a hook-type fastener.

24. The web of claim 21, wherein the at least one second region includes a transition region adjacent the first region, and wherein the transition region includes a third pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a third plurality of discrete unbonded areas, the third pattern being a gradient from the first pattern to the second pattern.

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25. The web of claim 21, wherein the first pattern has a first characteristic and the second pattern has a second characteristic different from said first characteristic.

26. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first opacity level and the second characteristic is a second opacity level, the second opacity level being higher than the first opacity level.

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27. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first tensile strength and the second characteristic is a second tensile strength, the second tensile strength being greater than the first tensile strength.

A10

31. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first stiffness and the second characteristic is a second stiffness.

A11

34. The web of claim 25, wherein the first characteristic is a first fluid flow and the second characteristic is a second fluid flow.

Please cancel claim 37 without prejudice to the patentability of the claim.

Please amend claim 39 to read as follows:

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39. A disposable absorbent article, comprising:

a bodyside liner;

an outer cover;

an absorbent structure disposed between the liner and the outer cover;

a mechanical fastening tab joined to the article, the fastening tab including a male fastening component; and

a female component joined to the outer cover and adapted for releasable engagement with the male component,

the female component comprising the pattern-unbonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1.

Please cancel claims 40 and 41 without prejudice to the patentability of the claims.

Please amend claims 42, 43, 47-49, 50, 54 and 57 to read as follows:

42. The process of claim 61, further comprising:

forming a second nonwoven web having a fibrous structure of individual fibers or filaments;

feeding the first and second nonwoven webs through the nip in opposed relationship with each other; and

bonding the first and second nonwoven webs together to form a pattern-unbonded nonwoven laminate.

43. A disposable absorbent article, comprising:

an article chassis having a side edge;

a pattern-unbonded material on the article chassis, the pattern-unbonded material including a first region and at least one second region, the first region including a first pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a first plurality of discrete unbonded areas, the second region including a second pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a second plurality of discrete unbonded areas, the second pattern being different from the first pattern;

at least a portion of the second region extending out beyond the side edge of said article chassis.

47. The article of claim 43, wherein the at least one second region includes a transition region adjacent the first region, and wherein the transition region includes a third pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a third plurality

of discrete unbonded areas, the third pattern being a gradient from the first pattern to the second pattern.

48. The article of claim 43, wherein the first pattern has a first characteristic and the second pattern has a second characteristic different from said first characteristic.

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49. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first opacity level and the second characteristic is a second opacity level, the second opacity level being higher than the first opacity level.

50. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first tensile strength and the second characteristic is a second tensile strength, the second tensile strength being greater than the first tensile strength.

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54. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first stiffness and the second characteristic is a second stiffness.

A16

57. The article of claim 48, wherein the first characteristic is a first fluid flow and the second characteristic is a second fluid flow.

Please add following new claims:

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60. A mechanical fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component; and

a second fastening component comprising a first region having a first pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a

first plurality of discrete unbonded areas adapted for releasable engagement with the first component, and a second region having a second pattern of continuous bonded areas defining a second plurality of discrete unbonded areas, said second pattern being different from said first pattern.

61. A process for forming a pattern-unbonded nonwoven fabric, said process comprising:

forming a first nonwoven web having a fibrous structure of individual fibers or filaments;

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feeding the nonwoven web through a nip defined between respective outer surfaces of opposed first and second rolls, the outer surface of at least one of said rolls having a pattern formed thereon and corresponding to a desired pattern to be formed on a surface of the web as the web is passed through the nip; and

applying heat to the web as the web is fed through the nip to form on said surface of the web continuous bonded areas defining a first pattern of discrete unbonded areas and a second pattern of discrete unbonded areas, the first pattern having at least one characteristic which is different from that of the second pattern.

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 10, 11, 18, 21, 22, 24-27, 31, 34, 39, 42, 43, 47-49, 50, 54 and 57 are amended, claims 37, 40, and 41 are canceled and claims 60 and 61 are added herein. Claims 1-36, 38-39, and 42-61 will be pending upon entry of the amendment. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes to be